

Message Text

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16

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SAB-01 SCCT-01 AF-08 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 AID-05 SAM-01 /121 W

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R 122016Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8759

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 558

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5622

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UNGA, GW, PN

SUBJECT: FRG PROPOSALS ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

REF: STATE 196812

SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY FRG CONSULTATIONS REVEAL GOP HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF UNGA ACTION ON TERRORISM. EMBASSY ASSESSMENT IS THAT GOP WILL BE SYMPATHETIC ON SUBSTANCE OF INITIATIVE, BUT WOULD INVOLVE ITSELF ONLY TO EXTENT THAT THIS DID NOT IN ANY WAY AFFECT SUPPORT BY OTHER COUNTRIES FOR PANAMA'S POSITION ON CANAL ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG EMBASSY CONSULTED GOP FOREIGN MINISITER BOYD BEFORE BODY'S DEPARTURE FOR SRI LANKA ABOUT FRG HUMAN RIGHTS COURT AND TERRORISM SUGGESTIONS. BOYD SAID PANAMA WOULD SUPPORT FRG ON HUMAN RIGHTS COURT. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF UNGA ACTION ON TERRORISM, BASED ON HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AS PERMREP TO UN DURING 1972 DEBATE AND SINCE. HE SAID HE DOUBTED THAT ACTION ON
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TERRORISM COULD BE SEPARATED FROM A HIGHLY POLITICAL

DEBATE ON SITUATIONS WHERE TERRORISM HAS OCCURRED, OR
ANOTHER THEOLOGICAL EXERCISE ON DEFINITION OF TERRORISM.

2. GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICER BELIEVES--AND WE CONCUR--
THAT PANAMA WOULD NOT HAVE ANY IMPORTANT RESERVATIONS
ON SUBSTANCE OF FRG PROPOSAL. BY BOYD IS DOUBTLESS
SINCERE IN HIS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POLITICAL
WRANGLING IF THE ISSUE IS RAISED. IN ANY EVENT, PANAMA'S
POSITION WOULD BE DETERMINED LARGELY BY ITS CONCERN
WITH INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT ON THE CANAL ISSUE. FOR
THIS REASON, WE ANTICIPATE THAT PANAMA WILL PRIVATELY--
AND SINCERELY--ASSURE ANYONE INTERESTED OF HER ESSENTIAL
SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT ON THE TERRORISM PROPOSAL, BUT
WILL DO NOTHING THAT COULD BE SEEN AS PUBLICLY TAKING
THE LEAD AT THE UN.

3. PANAMA'S POSITIONS AND VOTES ON ISSUES RAISED IN
INTERNATIONAL FORA ARE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR INTRINSIC
IMPORTANCE, PRIMARILY TREATED AS USEFUL TACTICAL
COUNTERS IN HER SEARCH FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT ON
THE CANAL. NEAR-UNANIMOUS LATIN SUPPORT, COMBINED
WITH ABSENCE OF A DEFINED COMMON FRONT OF OPPOSITION
FROM ANY OTHER QUARTER, COULD PERMIT PANAMA TO VOTE
FAVORABLY IF AND WHEN IT CAME TO THAT STAGE. IF THE
VOTING APPEARED LIKELY TO BE DIVISIVE OR CONTENTIOUS,
HOWEVER, PANAMA WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO ABSTAIN OR
ABSENT HERSELF RATHER THAN MAKE ANY OF HER POTENTIAL
SUPPORTERS MAD.

4. WE FEEL THAT APPROACHES, SHORTLY BEFORE THE DEBATE
OPENS, IN PANAMA LED BY FRG AND OTHER SYMPATHETIC
WEO'S, AND BOTH HERE AND IN NEW YORK BY SYMPATHETIC
LATINS, WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURE AVAILABLE TO
CONVINCE PANAMA, IF SHE CAN BE CONVINCED, THAT A
CLIMATE EXISTS IN WHICH HER FAVORABLE VOTE WOULD NOT
COST HER SUPPORT ON HER OWN ISSUE.

5. FRG EMBASSY EXPECTS TO RECEIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS
AND MORE DETAIL ON THIS SUBJECT SHORTLY. EMBOFF NOTED
THAT USG WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH FRG IN BONN AND
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AGREED THAT OUR EMBASSIES HERE WOULD MAINTAIN CLOSE
CONTACT.
JORDEN

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